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Greetings Delegates!

My name is Sara Diressova, and I am very excited to welcome you to the PMUNC Office on Drugs and Crime. I am a sophomore studying Economics and Contemporary European Politics and Society. Outside of class, I am an editor for the campus fashion magazine, Stripe, which involves sporadic, lunchtime, mini photo shoots and spending too much time following fashion bloggers. I was born in Slovakia and I moved to Iowa when I was nine. My family moved to the United States because of racism in Slovakia (I am half-Ethiopian), which is, in part, what inspired the committee’s topic titled Xenophobic Attacks on Immigrant Communities.

Recent large wins by far-right, nationalist parties in countries across Europe, from France to Hungary, are concrete evidence of xenophobia and racism that has plagued the continent for centuries. Western countries aren’t the only ones with large numbers of immigrants; Middle Eastern countries like the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia have also attracted many foreigners in the past couple of decades. Larger states are also not the only ones where immigrant communities are targeted, as anti-immigrant sentiment has turned into crime in smaller countries, from Austria to Hong Kong, as well. The recent anti-immigrant violence in South Africa against workers who come from all over the continent are examples of human rights and labor rights violations. These violations are a worldwide crisis, which makes the topic a good fit for a general assembly of countries; I am excited for a colorful discussion!

We will shift our lens of analysis to look at the drug trade in terms of its economic ramifications. Most discussion about illegal drugs focuses on its health effects and social ramifications. An economic analysis will be interesting because it will allow us to explore this topic in a more objective, quantitative way. The drug trade’s economic ramifications are long-term; they outlive drug “trends” that typically last 5-10 years (LSD in the 1960s, cocaine in the 1980s, Ecstasy currently). The biggest effect the industry has is on labor force productivity, and costs related to health care and the criminal justice system. Almost all countries are involved, either as producers, middlemen or consumers so we have a lively challenge ahead of us.

I look forward to our discussion of these issues, to bring us one step closer to what Miss Congeniality Gracie Hart taught us is “the one most important thing our society needs”- world peace.

Sincerely,

Sara Diressova
Chair, Office of Drugs and Crime
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Topic A: Economic Ramifications of the Drug Trade

Setting the Stage
The United Nations estimates the illegal drug trade to be valued at around $330 billion. This is more than the GDP of 88 percent of the world’s countries.¹ A market size of this scale has economic ramifications in every country, including on labor productivity, criminal justice systems, price levels and general economic development and growth. From the 1961 UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, whose mission was to curb a market already on the rise, the illicit drug trade has only increased in size. The increase in size has been synonymous with an increase in profits, which is what has led to the market’s mammoth influence on the general economy.¹

This guide will explain both the impacts of the illegal drug market on the economy as well as the market’s wider costs. Before going further, consider a disclaimer: the illegal nature of the drug trade means there is no controlled system or precise way of gathering information on its scope. All numbers from any source are approximations and even margins of error are hard to estimate.²

Relevant Treaties/ International Instruments
The single largest drug epidemic was that of opium in late 19th century China. It is estimated that a quarter of the adult population was using some sort of opiate. The industry was so profitable that for decades few called for halting it, until other countries started putting pressure on the country to take control. The first narcotics control conference was held in Shanghai in 1909 and was followed by the International Opium Convention of the Hague in 1912. Although production rates for opium have been on the rise in the past twenty years, they are now five times less than what they were in 1907. On balance, however, total illicit drug production has increased over the past century.³

The International Opium Convention, one of many post-World War I treaties, was a major step in drug control and international regulation. 1920 saw the Opium Convention

¹ "The War on Drugs." Count the Costs. Accessed
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come under the wing of the League of Nations. In 1925, cannabis was included in the Convention’s jurisdiction. The Convention for the Suppression of the Illicit Traffic in Dangerous Drugs was the inaugural international law to make a variety of drug-related crimes international crimes. The United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime also had a wide scope; part of its efforts was to strengthen drug control efforts. 

The start of the modern, global “war on drugs” began with the aforementioned 1961 UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs. It set international regulations and interdictions on drugs’ non-medical usage, strict constraints on the uses of medical drugs, and called for states to invest in treatment and rehabilitation programs.

States have also created their own national restrictions. Historically, anti-drug laws in the United States weren’t about how a drug impacted people but rather who was associated with it. Anti-opium laws of the 1870’s were directed at Chinese immigrants. Anti-cocaine laws first emerged in the South to target black men. The first anti-marijuana laws were enacted in the 1910’s and 20’s and were associated with Mexican and other Hispanic immigrants. Biased application of drug laws continues today as blacks and Hispanics are much more likely to be arrested than whites, even though their usage rates are about the same.

In 1971, President Nixon declared a “war on drugs” in the United States. President Reagan continued with zero-tolerance laws that increased the number of incarcerations for nonviolent drug crimes from 50,000 to 400,000 over the period from 1980-1997. In 2013, drug-related crimes were responsible for over half of federal incarcerations in the United States, and are one of the main reasons for the exponential expansion of the criminal justice and specifically of prison systems. There are 2.4 million people incarcerated in the United States at a cost of $39 billion. The country has spent over $1 trillion over the past 40 years on drug control. Decades of increasingly harsh drug policies have failed to curb the illegal market.

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In Latin America, the drug trade has played a role that has devastated the economy since the late 19th century. Prior to 1945, Mexico dominated the opium and cannabis markets and Peru produced cocaine. The coca plant was viewed as Peru’s most viable national industries at the end of the 19th century as it became very popular in medical fields in both the United States and Europe. Surgeons used it as an anesthetic and pharmacists used it in medicine. However, at the beginning of the 20th century, the Progressives and prohibitionists in the United States led crusades that led to a slow demise of the Peruvian industry. Competition from the Netherlands and Formosa (Taiwan) also damaged the Peruvian drug market.

From World War II to the 1960s the Latin American trade professionalized as organization was consolidated and trafficking became more systemized. It was during this time that the United States started leading an international campaign of anti-drug initiatives, in part by working with the United Nations. Peru finally criminalized cocaine in 1948, causing the industry to simply move underground. From the 1960s to the 1980’s Bolivia, Chile and Cuba became less prominent producers and Colombia came to dominate the scene as the Mexican government also cracked down on the illegal trade. However, starting in 1984 Mexican traffickers began making connections with Colombian producers through Panama and made a comeback. The entrepreneurial spirit of the drug industry has shown that whenever a state cracks down on the market, the market just moves to another country. $^8$

It is estimated that in the 1980s in Bolivia and Peru, three percent of the national population was involved in illegal drug production. The same was for Afghanistan and Colombia in the 1990s; the percentage of the local population in some parts of Afghanistan that are involved in the industry are purported to be as high as twenty percent.

> Figure 1: How the price of drugs is inflated through the illicit market.

Short-term gains are easily visible in illegal drugs’ profit margins.$^1$

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Current Status

Short-term Gains

Employment for unskilled, unemployed populations is the biggest short-term gain that the illegal drug industry brings. Vast rural, unregulated areas in developing countries are easily converted into fields of coca, poppy and marijuana. Developing countries are not able to provide their farmers with substantive enough subsidies to compete with large-scale, industrial subsidized crop growers in developed countries. This makes drugs an attractive alternative for farmers in the developing world. The profits are not distributed equally throughout the industry, but the traffickers and organizers make fortunes as the price of product grows exponentially from the farm to the streets of American cities. Unfortunately, the negative impacts outlast any short-term economic benefits.  

Impacts on the Labor Force

In many cases, countries affected by the drug trade suffer losses in the productivity of their workforces due to drug abuse that renders workers unable to perform. The loss caused by non-participation in the labor force in the United States is $120 billion, which was around .9 percent of the GDP in 2011. This loss is about 62 percent of total drug-related costs. The loss is around .3 percent and .4 percent of GDP in Australia and Canada, respectively. There is a chicken-or-the-egg dilemma however, because often it is the unemployed who begin or are more likely to abuse drugs rather than it being strictly drug abuse that leads to labor force non-participation. For example, in 2010, 56 percent of drug users going into treatment in Europe were unemployed.  

Impacts on National Economic Growth and Development

Although the Colombian economy is currently one of the fastest growing in Latin America, the 1990s saw definite impacts of the drug trade on the Colombian economy. Foreign investment was stifled, and public funds were diverted from social programs and other projects so that they could be use for fighting trafficking.  

Colombia has the plant-based drug production trifecta; during the 1990s the country became the number one coca plant grower, produced a majority of heroin sold in the United States, and grew large amounts of cannabis.

Of the three, it can be said that marijuana really was a "gateway drug" for the

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Colombian illegal drug economy. After a government crackdown caused by pressure from the United States, marijuana growing started waning in the 1970s. The Colombian exporters however had had a taste of the profits and stayed in the industry to develop the cocaine market. Cocaine is much easier to smuggle and its value to weight ratio is much higher. It cannot be grown in the United States and Europe, so Colombia has distinct geographic advantages. It also does not require much special tending as a plant nor is its manufacturing process complex.

For these reasons, cocaine became entrenched in the Colombian economy. Guerilla fighters promoted coca plant agriculture, which strengthened their support in rural areas as well as funded their efforts to undermine the government. Government institutions crumbled under corruption, leading to the collapse of economic institutions and legal markets, which are highly dependent on political stability. 10

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Inflation, Inequality, and Foreign Exchange

General price levels are not impacted in most countries, but there are exceptions.


Afghanistan and Bolivia have seen inflation in food prices caused by the expansion of drug cultivation. Farmers who grow crops outside of coca or poppies face greater pressure and poverty. As a result, they often give up food production, which results in a shortage of food within the country. Columbia and Myanmar have also seen an increase in real estate prices because drug traffickers who are able to amass wealth use it to buy properties.

Both consumption and production trends reinforce income inequality. Consumption of drugs is high among the upper- and lower-income groups because of the, “frustrations of poverty and the boredom of affluence.” Middle-income groups are below average in drug use. The impacts of course only reinforce poverty among lower-income users while not having much of an economic impact on high-income users, which reinforces a cycle of income inequality. In production, the profits are concentrated among a few wholesale distributors in developed countries, while farmers in the developing world face stiff competition and low profits.

For producer countries, exporting drugs means access to needed foreign exchange from foreign buyers. This is a positive, until the producer country’s currency appreciates since the demand for their products leads to an increase in the demand for their currency. Once the producer’s currency appreciates and becomes more expensive for foreign buyers,
they will stop buying the producer country's other good, causing the country's exports to go down. Since outside currencies are cheaper compared to their appreciated currency, the producer country will also import more, resulting in a larger trade deficit. This large *legal* trade deficit will form (even if there is an illegal trade surplus) making it hard for the country to diversify its exports. Foreign buyers will not want to buy the country's products because they have become expensive as a result of the currency appreciation.

*The Challenge of Elasticity*

Efforts to combat the negative impacts of the drug trade by diminishing its size have in the past generally focused on reducing the supply. In governmental drug control bodies attempt to crack down on the trade by focusing on confiscating products and prosecuting growers. However, the primary effect of this policy is to make drug production even more lucrative, as it brings prices up without decreasing the total quantity dramatically.

This is because the demand for drugs is, at least in the short run, inelastic. Elasticity is a measure of how sensitive supply or demand are to changes in price. Inelastic demand thus represents the fact that an increase in price doesn't affect demand for drugs because those addicted are dependent on the drugs and will buy even if price goes up; they are insensitive to changes in price. An inelastic (demand) curve has a very steep slope; this causes a large change in price with a small change in quantity when the supply decreases/the supply curve shifts leftward. They will resort to even more criminal activity to fund their addiction.  

![Diagram of supply and demand curves]

*When supply goes down (the supply curve shifts leftward) and the demand curve is inelastic as in the case of drugs, a large increase in price is followed by only a small decrease in quantity.*

Focusing on reducing the demand for drugs has proven to be much more effective

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in actually decreasing the number of drug addicts and halting trafficking in the long run. Moving the demand curve left/down decreases the quantity of drugs and the price decreases too as a result of a long-term decrease in drug use. Since the demand curve is inelastic (imagine it has a steep slope in the figure below) the effect is even more exaggerated and there will be a small decrease in price with a large decrease in quantity when it shifts down.

If demand goes down, not only does the quantity of drugs go down but their price does too. 13

Solutions that will decrease demand for drugs include drug education and government programs for rehabilitation and treatment. Early drug education focused on youth is especially effective in reducing the number of adult addicts. Rehabilitation programs exist everywhere but countries need to subsidize public ones to make them affordable to those most vulnerable; low-income communities.

A combination of practices to decrease drug trafficking that target both demand and supply is the most common option. Decreasing both demand and supply decreases the quantity of drugs with effects on the price depending on the elasticity of the supply curve and the size of the demand and supply curve shift relative to each other. Some more effective tactics for reducing the supply have included anti-poverty programs for poor drug-producing areas, limitation on arms, and better regional integration in search for traffickers. Regional cooperation between neighboring countries will also stop drug production simply moving a short distance over a border when only one country cracks down on trafficking. 14

Country Bloc Policies

Andean Region

Colombia, Bolivia and Peru are responsible for virtually all of the world’s coca production. 14 Colombia has received a


lot of support, especially from the United States. It has received financial support totaling over $1 billion, but the international community has neglected the other two countries in terms of aid to combat the trade. All three are officially committed to halting the trade but extensive corruption and officials’ secret involvement in the trade are counterproductive.\textsuperscript{15}

\textit{Rest of Latin America}

Brazil and Mexico, as well as other neighboring countries, have been, simply by virtue of geographical proximity, extensively involved in the drug trade as well. The governments are very much aligned with the United States in efforts to stop the trade. Mexico has accepted the United States’ Merida Initiative, a $1.9 billion anti-narcotics plan which funds the training of Mexican security forces as well as weapons and equipment.\textsuperscript{16} In committee, delegates will need to consider new and improved aid programs for these countries, while still respecting their sovereignty.

\textit{United States}

The country with the largest cocaine usage has spent over $1 trillion in the past 40 years fighting to stop the illegal drug trade.\textsuperscript{5} It has devoted a lot of resources, but the trade will not be halted until the demand for drugs declines. It wants other countries to also devote an increasing amount of funds to stop the trafficking and is willing to give aid for those efforts. Private interests have other motives however, as financial institutions from Bank of America, to Citigroup, JP Morgan Chase, HSBC, and Wachovia have all been investigated for the laundering of drug profits. 70 to 90 percent of weapons are supplied to both sides by U.S. companies who profit from the conflict, and who have lobbyists represent their diverging interests.\textsuperscript{16}

\textit{West and Central Europe}

August 15, 2015.

These regions are a major consumer of all major illegal drugs, and contain intricate networks of smuggling between Asia and the Americas. Although they are committed to fighting the trade, they remain minimally involved in international financial support to stop it.

Central Asia

Afghanistan produces about three-fourths of the world’s opium, and has about 1.3 million people out of a 30 million population addicted to it. Both Russia in the 1980’s and the United States in the early 2000’s failed to halt this industry which is estimated to be a fifth of the licit national GDP. The Taliban in the 1990’s was the most successful at decreasing drug production but recently, rogue Taliban groups have only profited from it. The trade has only destabilized an already crumbling economy, and different methods from what the Russian, American, and Taliban occupations tried must be considered. Decades long conflicts have destroyed the licit economy and led to the growth of the drug industry in every part of society. A reported 30 percent of Afghan security forces are involved in the drug trade so there are clandestine conflicts of interest. Sovereignty is also an important factor for a country that has historically experienced so much direct foreign interference. \(^{17,18}\)

Questions to Consider

What are the differences between long-term and short-term aspects of the solutions that need to be kept in mind in fighting the negative economic impacts?

How can the UN use economics to combat not just the illegal drug trade but also guerilla and gang violence that further destabilize states’ economic environment and institutions?

How can sovereignty and reasonable rights to privacy be protected in joint efforts between states to stop the illegal drug trade?

How can developing states’ agriculture be made more competitive in the world markets so they do not have to resort to illegal drug cultivation?

How can states diminish the illegal drug trade by combatting its demand rather than its supply?


**Topic B: Xenophobic Attacks on Immigrant Communities**

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**Setting the Stage**

Xenophobia, or the fear and hatred of foreigners and strangers, is present in every country with an immigrant population. The term comes from the Greek words "xenos," meaning "strange" or "foreigner," and "phobia" which means "fear."\(^{19}\) It is a broader term than racism or extreme nationalism because it covers the general fear that a person has of someone who is somehow different from them. The xenophobe feels the stranger poses a threat to their identity, culture, status or perceived superiority\(^{20}\). From Russia to the United States to South Africa, immigrants have faced unwelcome attitudes tied to race, religion and nationality.

“Everyone is a foreigner somewhere” is a phrase seen across the

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 posters of many protesters fighting to end the xenophobic attacks in South Africa and beyond. Most countries have several different waves of immigration, so it is often hard to distinguish between “native” populations and immigrant populations. For clarity, this paper will refer to the xenophobes who are targeting the attacked immigrant populations as “locals” or “local populations”. The “locals” might have been born in the land where they reside or they might have immigrated before the group that they are attacking; this in no way implies that the majority of people who have lived in a country for multiple generations are xenophobic.

**Relevant Concepts and Examples**

*Causes of Xenophobic Attacks*

There are many reasons for the systematic escalation of xenophobia from a simple fear to a public outburst of violent or nonviolent forms. The South African Institute of Race Relations has identified nine policy failures that are often the causes of xenophobic outbursts.

First, the failure by government officials and police forces to maintain the rule of law creates an atmosphere where xenophobes are aware that there is a very small chance of them being successfully
Prosecuted and punished for their actions. Second, border control problems create out-of-control environments where the host country isn’t able to gradually accommodate for the large population expansion. Immigrants without legal standing and protections become easy targets for mob violence and xenophobic sentiments. Third, endemic corruption, a form of failure to maintain the rule of law, can lead to anger over illegal immigrants getting access to services through fraudulent documents. When communities see that corrupt, unaccountable officials do not have control over burgeoning immigrant communities they take to the streets in violent demonstrations.

High levels of unemployment, especially among youth, lead to the local population seeing immigrants as competition for the few jobs available. In South Africa, with some areas having 40% of the population either unemployed or underemployed, job security was one of the most contentious issues that led to the 2008 and more currently, early 2015 xenophobic attacks on immigrants from other African countries. People without steady employment are also more readily available to organize into hate groups and lead violent mobs.

Unemployment and underemployment are in part a result of inadequate education systems. An unskilled labor force feeds high unemployment rates. An uneducated public is also more likely to join a mob and partake in violent mass movements. 4

Unemployment is also indicative of general slow economic growth. The prospect of a future without economic improvement has severe psychological impacts, especially on youth, the age demographic most susceptible to involvement in mob violence.

South African police look on as Nigerian immigrants who are the owners of an auto repair shop try to salvage pieces of a car, which a mob set on fire along with the whole shop and the vehicles inside it in May 2015. 21

21 "Xenophobia in South Africa." - Al Jazeera

Unreliable government services are another policy failure that can fuel xenophobia. When life-sustaining social security services become irregular, public protests arise which, when combined with weak security forces, can easily devolve into mob riots. Like mentioned above, immigrant communities, especially ones without documentation, are easy targets and a convenient scapegoat.

Race relations and policy regarding it are inseparable from xenophobia. Racial differences between locals and immigrants not only allow for easy targeting but also result in the visibility of the inescapable centuries-old race stereotypes entrenched in many cultures.  

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Case Study: Europe

From the late twentieth century onwards, large waves of Muslim immigrants from former European colonies began entering countries like France, Germany, Italy, and Switzerland. This rise in immigration was accompanied by the growth of several right-wing nationalist groups; in many cases, the groups have not only gained followers but have won significant seats in various parliaments. For example, twenty-five legislators of ten neo-Nazi political parties from seven different member states got seats in the European Parliament in the 2004 elections. Austria faced diplomatic sanctions from the European Union when, in 2001, the country’s extremist Freedom Party known for historic connections with Nazism won 27% of the vote in parliament. Other countries adopted more restrictive immigrant laws, under the ironic pretext that they were reacting to newly rising anti-foreigner sentiments.5

Xenophobic attacks in Europe do not take the form of large-scale riots like in South Africa, as western European countries enjoy both stronger rule of law and better security forces. However, violence and intimidation are still very much an issue. Four sets of Eurobarometer surveys conducted in twelve core European countries between 1988 and 2003 all show a significant and alarming increase in anti-foreign beliefs and fears.24 40 percent of the participants “opposed civil rights for legal migrants” and a 2003 survey done by the European Opinion Research Group found that 52 percent of those surveyed in fifteen countries (including Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom) disagreed with the comment that “immigrants contribute a lot to our economy.”25

Immigration from the Balkan states during the Yugoslav civil wars which lasted throughout the 1990s have also led to a growing concern in other European states.26

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http://www.academia.edu/5259392/Xenophobia_International_Migration_and_Human_Development.

Case Study: United States

The history of the United States is a history of immigration. Multiple waves of immigration have led to ironic anti-foreigner cries by locals who are often themselves immigrants or the descendants of previous generations of immigrants. Anti-immigrant sentiment towards the newest group of incomers has often culminated in federal policy. Examples include the Page Act and the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 which both banned Chinese laborers from entering the U.S. The “Gentlemen's Agreement” of 1907 barred the immigration of Japanese workers, and the Emergency Quota Law of 1921 set stringent quotas, especially on immigrants from Southeastern Europe, favoring immigrants from Northern Europe.27

Changing Patterns

A recent World Bank report explains a shift from North-South migration to South-South migration in the past decade. Countries like India, Pakistan, Malaysia and Libya are experiencing new flows of immigrants, each greeting its incomers with bouts of opportunity as well as anti-foreign sentiment. South-South migration usually happens between neighboring countries. As with North-South migration patterns, xenophobia is not a new phenomenon in South-South migrations either. Nigeria deported 800,000 Ghanian immigrants in the 1980s, and developing countries previously known for tolerance for immigrants and refugees like Thailand and Tanzania have also mandated stricter restrictions on incomers. 7

Previous International Agreements

International agreements to protect civil rights started to form in the 1950s. The first ones were more declaratory than action-focused. The Durban Declaration of 2001 was the first agreement that outlined the steps that states need to take to combat xenophobia. However, it was perceived by some countries as being biased and anti-Semitic, which caused many countries such as the United States to dismiss and it.28 It mandates that states conduct thorough investigations halt impunity enjoyed by perpetrators of xenophobic attacks. States

have been slow in adopting the mandates’ measures. For example, each signatory to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) must provide a compliance report. The United States submitted one report seven years late, showing the small amount of priority many states assign to such international anti-discrimination treaties.\textsuperscript{29} The agreements often lack accountability and enforcement measures to make them effective, which is something that the committee should consider in their discussions.

New research in light of the war on terrorism has shifted the international discussion on social justice; protecting civil rights and enacting anti-xenophobic policy appears to now be in many states’ own national security interest. States like France and the UK have experienced terrorist attacks from otherwise marginalized groups. Therefore, many states now consider anti-xenophobic policy as a long-term national security measure, which may make future agreements more effective.\textsuperscript{11}

- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) (1965) – states need to gather statistics and information regarding complaints and prosecutions of xenophobic and racist violence
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) (1966) — outlines rights which signatory states have a responsibility to protect “without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status”
- The Durban Declaration and Program of Action (2001) – states must respond to xenophobic attacks and collect data on discriminatory or violent occurrences \textsuperscript{30}

**Current Status**

The most covered recent xenophobic attacks occurred in the spring of 2015 in South Africa. Africa’s second largest economy saw a

\textsuperscript{29} "FAQ: The Covenant on Civil & Political Rights (ICCPR)." American Civil Liberties Union. Accessed August 28, 2015. \url{https://www.aclu.org/faq-covenant-civil-political-rights-iccpr}.

repetition of the bloody 2008 attacks against foreigners residing in the country.31

South Africa’s long history with migrants from neighboring countries stems from its regional economic dominance. The most recent attacks targeted immigrants from across the continent, including from Ethiopia, Nigeria and Somalia.

Xenophobia in Africa is usually against nationals of neighboring countries, and the anti-immigrant sentiment is widespread. The 2001 and 2002 Southern African Migration Project’s (SAMP) National Immigration Policy Survey show that Botswanan citizens’ willingness to actively participate in action against foreigners was almost 50 percent. The sentiment is often manifested in the form of violence throughout the continent.

There have been several occurrences of public lynchings of Haitians in the Dominican Republic in December 2005, as well as cases of Haitian slum dwellings being set on fire.

In Asia, Burmese immigrants and refugees in India, Thailand, and Malaysia have experienced violence from both government forces and private groups.


Skinhead neo-Nazi groups are on the rise along, as are the previously mentioned extreme far-right parties in Eastern Europe, including in Slovakia, Ukraine, and Russia. Central Asian immigrants have been the main targets; in Russia, Afghans are particularly targeted. In May 2011 alone, attacks on more than 100 Africans and Asians were reported in Greece.5

**Cyber Campaigns**

Cyber attacks are a newer avenue for xenophobic attacks. Chiring Chauri Yuva Manch (CCYM), a student group in India, sent out mass texts throughout the northwestern province of Assam in 2005, calling locals to “Save nation, save identity. Let’s take an oath – no food, no job, no shelter to [migrant] Bangladeshis.”13 Cyber space has also become a platform for backlash resulting from xenophobia. For instance, ISIS recruiters often target individuals in the West affected by xenophobia.13 The implications of growth in online xenophobia will need to be considered in committee, as online behavior is significantly more difficult to observe and regulate, and as free speech will need to be respected in the process.

**National Responses**

The South African Human Rights Commission led a “Roll Back Xenophobia” campaign between 1999 and 2002. It was
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however not very successful—discrimination and violence continued to escalate through the start of the twenty-first century. One reason for this was that the Roll Back campaign was a media campaign without a follow-up of concrete government policy. The South African Government has not yet ratified the International Convention on the Protection of All Migrant Workers and Members of the Their Families adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1990, nor the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Punishment of 2006. Measures need to be taken to compel states to ratify such agreements to make the effective.  

Ukraine’s 2007 Diversity Initiative was much more successful. The Initiative was organized by a coalition of international NGOs and community civic groups. It has provided victims with access to medical and legal assistance, presented individual cases before the Ukrainian government pushing for accountability through police enforcement, and engaged with the public in the form of conferences, events, and media. The Ukrainian government finally began to address xenophobia in more systematic ways in 2008 and attacks decreased markedly in the following years.

The International Organization for Migration started the Migration Heroes project in the United Kingdom in 2015. The campaign consists of thousands of posters, each featuring an immigrant and their story, to show the immigrants’ positive contributions to the country. The campaign will continue through 2015 and it has already had great effects in raising awareness. Crowd funding provided the financial support and a wide social media campaign reinforces the physical posters.  

These are just some examples—delegates should search for more successful examples of responses to xenophobia in their home countries and worldwide that they can bring to committee.

Potential International Responses

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) has created the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) whose job has been to collect data on individual European states’ performance in protecting immigrants and

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any other oppressed populations from violence and hate crimes. ODIHR found that most states are still deeply lacking in “1) systems for comprehensive data collection on hate crime; and 2) the adoption and enforcement of adequate legislation.”

States need to create better long-term data-centered monitoring systems to better understand motives and biases and the way they fold out as hate crimes. 17 out of the 56 OSCE states still have not created legislation outlining bias as being a factor in violent crimes, and of those that have criminal prosecution are few and far between showing a lack of enforcement of the few laws in place. Governments must also create an environment where victims feel comfortable enough to report crimes and have faith their concerns will be addressed—underreporting is a major issue.

A multipronged approach between the government, international bodies like the UNHCR, civic groups, nonprofits, embassies and local authorities is also effective. The aforementioned Ukrainian Diversity Initiative was successful because of it.

Country Bloc Policies

United States & Europe

Both are outwardly extremely dedicated to eradicating xenophobic crimes, but have consistently faltered in protecting victims because violence is much more subtle and less organized than in other parts of the world like South Africa. This makes it harder to track, but the regions have enough resources to do so, if there is a will.16 European policy will be highly member-specific. As the recent migrant crisis has shown, some countries such as Germany have taken steps to protect migrant rights, while others like Hungary are much more resistant.

Asia

Countries like Thailand were not historically intolerant; xenophobia against immigrants from neighboring countries who haven’t done as well in the past couple of decades is new. The unwelcome spirit is especially against Burmese refugees, fleeing human rights abuses that have often been ignored by the international community.34

South Africa

South Africa’s waning economic progress has incinerated many unemployed and poverty-stricken, with immigrants becoming a scapegoat. Crumbling political and


economic institutions are the reasons for the flight from countries like Zimbabwe and Mozambique into South Africa, which would provide a better life though not by much. Structural changes need to take place to take pressure off both victims and perpetrators of xenophobic violence, but corruption is deeply ingrained in the interest of everyone in the region. The South African government has only used police forces to stop riots between South Africans and immigrants; long-term solutions are missing.  

Rest of Africa

African nations including Malawi, Zimbabwe and Kenya are evacuating their citizens from South Africa. Mozambique retaliated by sending 340 South Africans working in Mozambique for the South African energy titan Sasol home, and a Zambian radio station has put a moratorium on playing South African music. Boko Haram threatened the South African government; if the government doesn’t end the xenophobic attacks, the terrorist group will start attacking South Africans in Nigeria, Chad, Niger and other African countries. The African Union has met in June 2015 to discuss this issue but there is not agreement yet. Nevertheless, African nations will seek to continue this trend of cooperation—violence among citizens of neighboring nations will do nothing for their economic and political stability.

Latin America

As part of UNESCO’s International Coalition of Cities against Racism, mayors and representatives of the largest cities in Latin America met in Uruguay in 2006 to create a regional coalition. They committed to adapting municipal policy to “fight against racism, xenophobia, ethnical and religious intolerance, the persisting legacy of colonization, and discriminatory attitudes towards street children.” The trickling down of anti-xenophobic policy-making is another

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example of the region's commitment to stopping this problem.  

*Pacific Nations*

New Zealand immigration policy has been historically very tolerant, for example taking in refugees that Australia refused in 2001. As the number of immigrants has increased by 50% since 2001, this has not been the case recently. Discrimination against Chinese investors has not been addressed by the government, and all parties from Labor to the NZ First Party are proposing to drastically curb immigration from Asia. In Australia, Tony Abbott's new restrictions that sequester illegal immigrants on islands outside Australian sovereign territory reflect growing anti-immigrant sentiment.

*Middle East*

Most immigrants in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are in the countries under non-permanent foreign contract labor agreements. The host countries have not committed to ensuring these structural agreements protect workers from violence and restrictions of freedoms by their employers, which have been a reoccurring problem. It's unlikely that the Gulf countries, whose ruling classes are ethnically homogeneous, will support many policies of social integration or assimilation.

**Questions to Consider**

How can states create an environment where victims are not afraid to report their experiences with xenophobic attacks?

How can “destination” countries work with countries where the immigrants originate work together to stop xenophobia?

How can the United Nations better facilitate prosecution of perpetrators of xenophobic attacks in international courts?

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| How can hate groups be targeted without inflicting upon individual freedoms and national sovereignty? | How can the international community aid in restoring states' police and security institutions, which are sinking in corruption? |